

and other health care services designed to improve patient health and reduce overall health care costs. Pharmacists are also expanding their role into new models of care based on quality of services and outcomes, such as accountable care organizations (ACOs) and medical homes.

The pharmacy advocates of NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill will be promoting an access agenda. They know that we face difficult debates about the future of health care and the pharmacy community wishes to work with us to help in the effort to develop comprehensive and consistent approaches to public policy that put pharmacy's value to work for patients and payers. They understand well that the issues we are debating today are highly connected and vital to pharmacy, to all of health care, and to society as a whole.

I believe Congress should look at every opportunity to make sure that pharmacists are allowed to utilize their training to the fullest to provide the services that can improve care, increase access and lower costs. In recognition of the Tenth Annual NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill, I would like to congratulate pharmacy leaders, pharmacists, students, and the entire pharmacy community represented by NACDS, for their contributions to the health and wellness of the American people.

IN HONOR OF LOGAN GROSZ AND SEAMUS CASEY'S SELECTION AS WYOMING'S TOP YOUTH VOLUNTEERS, AND SADIE HOGAN AND MICKAYLA VANNATTER AS DISTINGUISHED FINALISTS BY THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Logan Grosz and Seamus Casey for being honored as Wyoming's top youth volunteers by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, and Sadie Hogan and Mickayla Vannatter for being recognized as Distinguished Finalists.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards is a nationwide program that recognizes four middle level and high school students from each state for their outstanding volunteerism. Each year, two students are selected as the State Honorees, and two as Distinguished Finalists. This year's honored students are committed to service and to going above and beyond for their communities.

Logan Grosz was selected as the High School State Honoree for Wyoming for his dedication to supporting the Children's Hospital Colorado. As a patient and its Champion for the State of Wyoming, he organizes and runs fundraisers that have raised over \$7,500 for the hospital and its other patients.

Seamus Casey is this year's Middle Level State Honoree for his support of the Folds of Honor Foundation. Last summer, he designed and completed his own triathlon, raising \$10,000 for the Foundation's scholarships for family members of fallen or disabled servicemen.

Sadie Hogan was recognized as a Distinguished Finalist for her leadership in a project

that compiled and distributed sacks of food and toiletries to homeless members of her community.

Mickayla Vannatter was recognized as a Distinguished Finalist for her program that encourages children at her school to choose inclusion over bullying.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Logan, Seamus, Sadie, and Mickayla. They have set excellent examples for their friends and families, and I appreciate all they do to support the great state of Wyoming and our great country.

GUN VIOLENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the issue of gun violence in America.

This Valentine's Day, February 14, 2018, marked the thirtieth mass shooting in our country this year, when a mentally unstable 19-year-old opened fire on Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida with an AR-15 military style weapon, killing 17 individuals and injuring 15 others.

We extend our deepest sympathies to all those affected by this tragedy and recognize the skill and heroism of the law enforcement officers and first responders who came to the aid of others.

We commend the efforts of those who are working to care for the injured and investigate this horrific incident.

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the families of the fallen, and to all those affected in the community of Parkland, Florida and in the United States.

The horrifying events in Parkland mark the 378th mass shooting in the U.S. since 2017, and the 30th this year, according to Gun Violence Archive.

Mass shootings are a near daily occurrence in America, but what happened in Las Vegas on October 1, 2017 stands out: It was the deadliest such incident in U.S. history, with more than 58 killed and 515 injured.

A mass shooting is defined by Gun Violence Archive as any incident in which four or more are shot and/or killed in a single event, at the same general time and location not including the shooter.

Recent U.S. mass shootings include:

Las Vegas, 2017: 58 killed; 515 wounded
Orlando, 2016: 50 killed
Virginia Tech, 2007: 32 killed
Sandy Hook, 2012: 27 killed
San Ysidro, 1984: 21 killed
San Bernadino, 2015: 14 killed
Edmond, 1986: 14 killed
Fort Hood, 2009: 13 killed
Columbine, 1999: 13 killed
Charleston, 2015: 9 killed

There were more than 11,600 deaths linked to gun violence in 2017, which is roughly equivalent to nearly four 9/11 attacks in terms of the total number killed on September 11, 2001.

Comparatively, more than 15 thousand were killed by gun violence in 2016, and there were 383 mass shootings.

It is horrifying to admit that gun violence now seems to be a staple of American life.

The United States ranks No. 1 in the world in terms of firearms per capita—with 88.8 guns per 100 people—and it has the highest homicide-by-firearm rate in the developed world.

The problem is so endemic that gun violence is now the third leading cause of death for children in the U.S.

An average of 1,297 children die annually from gun-related injuries.

Guns are linked to roughly 33 thousand deaths in the U.S. per year; about two-thirds of them are suicides.

According to Pew Research Center, a majority of Americans (across partisan lines) support gun policy proposals such as barring people with mental illnesses from buying guns; prohibiting gun purchases by people on federal no-fly or watch lists; and background checks for private gun sales and sales at gun shows.

America has six times as many firearm homicides as Canada, and nearly 16 times as many as Germany.

United Nations data shows that America far and away leads other developed countries when it comes to gun-related homicides.

America has 4.4 percent of the world's population, but almost half of the civilian-owned guns around the world.

In December 2012, a gunman walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, and killed 20 children, six adults, and himself.

Since then, there have been at least 1,518 mass shootings, with at least 1,715 people killed and 6,089 wounded.

The fairly broad definition of "mass shooting" includes not only shootings in which four or more people were murdered, but shootings in which four or more people were shot at all (excluding the shooter).

Even under this broad definition, mass shootings make up a tiny portion of America's firearm deaths, which totaled more than 33,000 in 2014.

On average, there is more than one mass shooting for each day in America.

Whenever a mass shooting occurs, supporters of gun rights often argue that it is inappropriate to bring up political debates about gun control in the aftermath of a tragedy.

For example, former Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, a strong supporter of gun rights, criticized former President Barack Obama for "trying to score cheap political points" when Obama mentioned gun control after a mass shooting in Charleston, South Carolina.

But if this argument is followed to its logical end, then it will never be the right time to discuss mass shootings.

Under the broader definition of mass shootings, America has nearly one mass shooting a day.

So if Congress is forced to wait for a time when there is not a mass shooting to talk gun control, Congress could find itself waiting for a very long time.

The time for responding to mass shootings with thoughts and prayers has long since passed.

The time for responding with effective legislation is now.

I have called upon this Administration to secure the passage of H.R. 4268, the "Gun Safety Not Sorry Act," legislation I have introduced that would impose a 7-day waiting, or "cooling off," period prior to the purchase or